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CIA-Congress 440

By JIM ADAMS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - The House-Foreign Affairs Committee is gaining access to U.S. intelligence secrets as a result of the disclosure of CIA operations in Chile.

Chairman Thomas E. Morgan, D-Pa., announced Tuesday that an arrangement has been worked out with the Ford administration and House leaders to provide the House Foreign Affairs Committee, in addition to the House and Senate Armed Services and Appropriations committees, with information on the CIA and other intelligence agencies.

"What it means," Morgan said, "is that for the first time State Department witnesses privy to CIA information had better answer our questions."

Rep. Michael Harrington, D-Mass., has said it was CIA Director William E. Colby's refusal to answer questions on Chile before the Foreign Affairs Committee that prompted Harrington to search out Colby's disclosure of the CIA activities in Chile in testimony to the Armed Services subcommittee.

Harrington, however, termed the new access "a small step for the House Foreign Affairs Committee and a smaller step still for the cause of congressional control over the CIA, but so far still more illusion than reality."

"As much as I would like to believe that today's announcement means the end of over 20 years of negligent congressional oversight of the CIA, I cannot help but remain skeptical at this stage as more than today's vaguely worded promise is necessary," Harrington said.

Harrington said Colby told the House intelligence subcommittee April 22 that the CIA had channeled more than \$8 million to opposer of former Chilean Marxist President Salvador Allende.

The congressman said Colby testified \$5 million was for what Harrington called efforts to "destabilize" Allende's government.

The CIA has let most of the story stand without comment but Colby has denied he characterized the CIA activities as being destabilizing.

The disclosure of Colby's testimony after he had refused to answer Harrington's questions on the subject before the House Foreign Affairs Committee drew protests from Chairman Dante Fascell, D-Fla., of the Latin America subcommittee as well as from Harrington.

Chairman Morgan announced Tuesday that he and other ranking committee members had been working actively to gain access to any information on overseas activities affecting U.S. foreign policy, including CIA and other intelligence activities.

"This is our committee's responsibility under the rules of the House," Morgan said. "We will have access to information necessary to discharge that responsibility."

Morgan said the details on procedures for handling and safeguard such information are being worked out.

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